AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Orignal) A method comprising:

receiving authentication information associated with an authentication policy from a remote device;

comparing the received authentication information against authentication information associated with an authentication policy in a local device; and

determining an authentication priority between the local device and the remote device based, at least in part, on the comparison of the authentication information.

2. (Orignal) A method according to claim 1, wherein the authentication information includes an indication of priority level associated with the device.

3. (Orignal) A method according to claim 2, wherein authentication policy exhibiting a higher priority level will control which device initiates authentication between the local device and the remote device.

4. (Orignal) A method according to claim 3, wherein the authentication information further includes an indication of device class, wherein a tie in priority level between the devices is resolved through analysis of the indication of device class associated with the local device and the remote device.

5. (Orignal) A method according to claim 4, wherein the indication of device class denotes whether the device is one of a base station, a subscriber station, and/or a client station.

6. (Orignal) A method according to claim 5, wherein a base station has a higher device class than a subscriber station.

7. (Orignal) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting one of the remote device or the local device to initiate authentication based, at least in part, on the determined authentication priority.

8. (Orignal) A method according to claim 7, further comprising:

initiating an authentication process by the selected one of the remote device or the local device.

9. (Orignal) A storage medium comprising content which, when accessed by an electronic appliance, causes the electronic appliance to perform the method according to claim 1.

10. (Orignal) An apparatus comprising:

a transmitter, to selectively communicate with a remote device; and

a security agent, associated with a local device and coupled with the transmitter, to receive authentication information associated with an authentication policy from a remote device, and to compare the received authentication information against authentication information associated with an authentication policy in a local device to identify a relative authentication priority between the local device and the remote device based, at least in part, on the comparison of the authentication information.

11. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 10, the apparatus further comprising:

memory, responsive to the security agent, to receive and maintain an authentication policy associated with a device.

12. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 11, the authentication policy comprising authorization information including an indication of authentication priority level associated with the device.

13. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the authentication policy exhibiting a higher priority level will control which device initiates authentication between the local device and the remote device.

14. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 13, the memory further comprising an indication of device class within the authentication policy, wherein a tie in priority level between the

devices is resolved by the security agent through comparison of the indication of device class associated with the local device and the remote device.

15. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the indication of device class denotes whether the device is one of a base station, a subscriber station, and/or a client station.

16. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a base station has a higher device class than a subscriber station.

17. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the transceiver selectively establishes a communication channel with the remote device through which the transceiver receives at least a subset of the authentication policy associated with the remote device.

18. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the transceiver is a wireless transceiver, and wherein the communication channel is a wireless communication channel in accordance with a wireless metropolitan area network (WMAN) communication standard.

19. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the security agent selects one of the remote device or the local device to initiate authentication based, at least in part, on the determined authentication priority.

20. (Orignal) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the security agent initiates an authentication process by the selected one of the remote device or the local device.

21. (Orignal) A system comprising:

one or more dipole antenna(e);

a transmitter, responsive to the one or more dipole antenna(e), to selectively communicate with a remote device; and

a security agent, associated with a local device and coupled with the transmitter, to receive authentication information associated with an authentication policy from a remote device, and to compare the received authentication information against authentication information associated with an authentication policy in a local device to identify a relative authentication priority between the local device and the remote device based, at least in part, on the comparison of the authentication information.

22. (Orignal) A system according to claim 21, further comprising:

memory, responsive to the security agent, to receive and maintain an authentication policy associated with a device.

23. (Orignal) A system according to claim 22, the authentication policy comprising authorization information including an indication of authentication priority level associated with the device.

24. (Orignal) A system according to claim 23, wherein the authentication policy exhibiting a higher priority level will control which device initiates authentication between the local device and the remote device.

25. (Orignal) A system according to claim 24, the memory further comprising an indication of device class within the authentication policy, wherein a tie in priority level between the devices is resolved by the security agent through comparison of the indication of device class associated with the local device and the remote device.